

CHAPTER NO. 799

SENATE BILL NO. 2072

By Cooper

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2267

By Harmon

AN ACT to name segments of State Route 28 in Sequatchie County in honor of the late Grady Lester Davis and the late Woodrow Wilson Von Rohr.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this general assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no one could be more deserving of this honor than the late Grady Lester Davis and the late Woodrow Wilson Von Rohr, two brave sons of Sequatchie County who were killed in combat; and

WHEREAS, Grady Lester Davis, Seaman Second Class of the United States Naval Reserve, was killed in action on October 16, 1942, while serving on the *USS Meredith*, which was escorting the *USS Vireo* from Espiritu Santo to Guadalcanal; the *USS Meredith* was strafed repeatedly by Japanese planes and sank with all aboard; and

WHEREAS, Seaman Second Class Grady Lester Davis was awarded the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, and numerous other honors, including the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, Woodrow Wilson Von Rohr, Gunnersmate Second Class of the United States Navy, was lost during enemy action on December 7, 1944, while serving on the *USS Mahan*, which was acting as radar picket ship during the U.S. invasion of Ormoc, Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands; the *USS Mahan* was attacked by Japanese kamikaze planes with such ferocity that the vessel was sunk with all aboard; and

WHEREAS, like hundreds of thousands of other brave sons of this great nation, neither Mr. Davis nor Mr. Von Rohr shrank from serving in combat during World War II, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the world from totalitarian oppression; and

WHEREAS, Grady Lester Davis and Woodrow Wilson Von Rohr both with great courage and gallantry, giving their lives for their country and for the cause in which they believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, these courageous men deserve proper recognition; as members of the United States Armed Forces, they proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, their dedication to excellence in the military and their love of their fellow soldiers and their country, as exemplified in their sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that they held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, the Sequatchie County Board of Commissioners has petitioned this body to name two (2) segments of State Route 28 to honor the bountiful lives of these two exceptional young men, and this general assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal to permanently commemorate the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of the late Grady Lester Davis and the late Woodrow Wilson Von Rohr; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the segment of State Route 28 from the Sequatchie County - Marion County boundary northward for a distance of two (2) miles is hereby designated as the "Grady Lester Davis Memorial Highway" and the segment of State Route 28 from the terminus of the "Grady Lester Davis Memorial Highway" northward for a distance of two (2) miles in the direction of the corporate limits of Dunlap, Tennessee, is designated as the "Woodrow Wilson Von Rohr Memorial Highway" in recognition of the lives of valor and death in combat of these two courageous veterans.


SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such segments of State Route 28 in Sequatchie County as the "Grady Lester Davis Memorial Highway" and the "Woodrow Wilson Von Rohr Memorial Highway", respectively. The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 19, 2004


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 3rd day of June 2004


PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR